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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for 5 minutes.

HONORING OUR NATION'S TEACHERS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today marks National Teacher Day, and I rise to recognize the important contributions and the hard work of our Nation's educators.

Our teachers will inspire our children's path to their futures, whether it is through teaching history, mathematics, English, or science. They will provide children with the framework for independent thought and innovation.

We in Congress are fighting to improve our education system. In order to be successful, we must shift power away from Washington and back into the hands of parents, teachers, and local officials, those who know our children the best.

I recently visited the Sunset Hills Elementary School in Tarpon Springs, FL, in my congressional district. While

I was there, I met with teachers, students, and administrators. This school was built in 1958 and has approximately 500 students. Sunset Hills is often characterized as being a true neighborhood school, something which fosters a special pride within the community it serves. The school has a motto, Mr. Speaker, which is indicative of the character of its teachers and students. The motto is, "Where the future meets every day."

During my visit, I met the promising young boys and girls who are tomorrow's leaders. As soon as I entered the school, I was struck by the pride and dedication of the students, teachers, and school administrators.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time to talk about some of the special people I met while visiting there. I want to commend Mrs. Kathy Davis on her hard work and dedication to the students of Sunset Hills. To my left here is a photograph which I took with Mrs. Davis and her students. She teaches the first grade and has done so for 20 years. During her tenure, Mrs. Davis has shaped the minds of hundreds of young people. I applaud her commitment to guide our children during their formative years in school. Her efforts help lay the foundation for her students' future years. I would also like to thank her students for welcoming me into her classroom. What a fine group of first graders.

Behind me, as I said earlier, is a picture of Mrs. Davis and her students which the class sent to me shortly after my visit to the school.

During my visit, I also met Sally Wakefield, who teaches English and language arts to fourth graders. She has taught at Sunset Hills for 19 years and is a wonderful and inspiring educator. Not only does she encourage her students to better communicate their ideas, she also oversees the student council, a body elected by the students. It was a privilege to meet her and I

commend her commitment to excellence.

While at Sunset Hills, I took the time to speak with school administrators who shared with me the importance of school breakfast and lunch programs. I want to especially thank Dolores Ford, Joe Hornberger, Susan Honey, Betty Muzio, Stella Makryllos, Kathy Protus, and Gray Miller for their time. While teachers provide the basic tools for learning, these individuals help the Sunset students focus on learning by ensuring that they have adequate and nutritious meals every day.

School meals, as we know, are an integral part of our children's educational experience. In addition these programs enhance a child's physical and mental development.

Finally, I want to commend William Brewer, the principal of Sunset Hills Elementary. He is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the school. Let me say how impressed I was by the school's organization. Mr. Brewer is responsible for this success. His leadership serves as an inspiration to all of those at Sunset Hills.

Mr. Speaker, the teachers and administrators at Sunset Hills Elementary are meeting the rewarding challenges of educating their students. As we search for ways to improve our Nation's education system, I want my colleagues, teachers, parents, students, administrators, and local officials to know that I am dedicated—I think all of us are—to improving our Nation's education programs. Why? Just look at the faces of the Sunset Hills Elementary first grade class. They are responsible for our Nation's future.

INTRODUCTION OF POLICE COORDINATION ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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